

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 22, 2002. Claims 1 to 19 are in the application, with Claims 20 to 25 having been cancelled and Claims 2 to 4, 10 and 18 having been amended. Claim 1 is the only independent claim. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicants wish to affirm their election of Claims 1 to 19, made in response to a telephone restriction requirement. The election is now made without traverse. In keeping with this election, Claims 20 to 25 have been cancelled herein.

Further, Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 11 to 17 and 19 are allowable.

Formal objections have been raised in the Office Action to the Abstract and Claims 2 to 4, 7 to 8, 10 and 18, which have been addressed herein. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objections and an indication of allowance of Claims 2 to 4, 7 to 8, 10 and 18 are respectfully requested.

Figures 10 and 11 have been objected to as not containing a "Prior Art" legend. In a Letter Submitting Substitute Formal Drawings which accompanies this Amendment, Applicants submitted Figures 10 and 11 revised to include the indicated "Prior Art" legend. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the drawing objection are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully sought.



Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 39,000

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE ABSTRACT

[A thin type rechargeable lithium battery which comprises a battery main body enclosed between a pair of a sealing member (a) and a sealing member (b), at least said sealing member (a) having a concave portion such that said concave portion is extended to either side of said sealing member (a) from a central position of said sealing member (a) so as to have a peripheral collar portion (a-i) which surrounds said concave portion, said sealing member (b) having a peripheral collar portion (b-i) at a region thereof corresponding to said collar portion (a-i) of said sealing member (a) and said two sealing members (a) and (b) being arranged to oppose to each other such that the face of said concave portion of said sealing member (a) is faced to said sealing member (b) through said battery main body, wherein said collar portion (a-i) and said collar portion (b-i) are mutually welded, and either said sealing member (a) or said sealing member (b) is provided with a power output terminal having an electrical continuity with said battery main body and an insulating portion for insulating said power output terminal.]

A thin rechargeable lithium battery having a battery main body enclosed between sealing members (a) and (b), at least sealing member (a) having a concave portion that extends to either side from a central position so as to have a peripheral collar portion (a-i) which surrounds the concave portion, sealing member (b) having a peripheral collar portion (b-i) corresponding to the collar portion (a-i) of sealing member (a) and the two sealing members (a) and (b) being opposingly arranged such that the face of said concave portion of sealing member (a) faces

sealing member (b) through the battery main body, wherein collar portions (a-i) and (b-i) are mutually welded, and either sealing member (a) or (b) is provided with a power output terminal having electrical continuity with the battery main body and an insulating portion for insulating said terminal.



APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

2. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein said sealing member (b) also has [have] a concave portion such that said concave portion is extended to either side of said sealing member (b) from a central position of said sealing member (b) so as to have a peripheral portion which surrounds said concave portion and said peripheral portion comprises said collar portion (b-i).

3. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein each of said sealing member (a) and said sealing member (b) principally comprises one or more metallic materials selected from the [a] group consisting of a stainless steel material, a nickel material, a nickel-plated iron material, an aluminum material, and a copper material.

4. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 1, wherein each of said collar portion (a-i) and said collar portion (b-i) have [has] a width in a range of from 0.5 mm to 3.0 mm.

10. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 9, wherein said cathode power output terminal and said anode power output terminal are situated at a position in said concave portion of said sealing member (a) which is 15 mm or less distant from a circumferential face of said concave portion.

18. (Amended) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 17, wherein said clad material comprises a material selected from [a] the group consisting of a nickel material, a titanium material [or] and a copper material, or a material containing an element constituting said cathode power output terminal as a main constituent, and a material containing an element constituting said cathode lead portion as a main constituent.

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